

Toronto Faculty of Information Studies, 1927-2004

by Brian Land

Notable Events

1911	The Ontario Library School was established by the provincial Department of Education under the supervision of the Inspector of Public Libraries, Walter R. Nursey, and offered a four-week course, the first training program for librarians in Ontario.
1916	The twenty-six students who successfully completed the course received certificates of library training from the Ontario Department of Education, the first such certification to be awarded in the province.
1927	The Ontario Library School continued until its termination in 1927 when the Ontario Department of Education requested the University of Toronto to establish a library school.
1928	The Library School was established in the Ontario College of Education with its own full-time Director, Winifred G. Barnstead, was administered jointly by the University of Toronto, the Ontario College of Education and the Ontario Department of Education, and offered a one academic-year Diploma program. On successful completion of the program, the graduate received a Diploma in Librarianship from the University and a Librarian's Certificate from the provincial Department of Education.
1936	The Library School introduced a one academic-year program for university graduates leading to the degree of Bachelor of Library Science. The Diploma in Librarianship program was continued for those with high school qualifications only and graduates of both programs received a Librarian's Certificate from the provincial Department of Education.
1937	The program leading to the BLS degree was accredited by the American Library Association under its 1933 Minimum Requirements for Library Schools following an accreditation team visit by Keyes D. Metcalf, Chief Librarian of Harvard University, and Margaret Mann, Professor, Department of Library Science, University of Michigan. Thirty-one graduates received the Bachelor of Library Science degree.
1950	A one academic-year program leading to the degree of Master of Library Science, the first such program in Canada, was introduced with the BLS degree as the entrance requirement.
1951	The first person to earn the MLS degree in Canada was Esther Jacobsen.
1954	The Diploma program, last offered in 1945, was formally withdrawn.
1956	The BLS program was accredited by the American Library Association under its 1951 Standards for Accreditation.
1965	The Library School was detached administratively from the Ontario College of Education, was renamed the School of Library Science (SLS) and became a fully integrated unit of the University of Toronto. It moved to a three-storey building at 167 College Street and also occupied two floors of a connected building at 256 McCaul Street.
1970	The one academic-year BLS program begun in 1936 was discontinued and replaced by a two academic-year program leading to the degree of Master of Library Science. Following a full report on the change-over to the new program to the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation, it extended accreditation to the two-year MLS program under its 1951 Standards for Accreditation.
1971	The School occupied its new seven-storey building at 140 St. George Street specifically designed to meet its requirements for teaching, research and continuing education.

1971	A program leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Library Science was introduced, the first such PhD program in Canada.
1972	The School was renamed the Faculty of Library Science (FLS) administered by the Dean of Library Science.
1974	The first person to earn the PhD degree in library science in Canada was Claire England.
1975	The Committee on Accreditation of the American Library Association accredited the M.L.S. program under its 1971 Standards for Accreditation.
1978	In cooperation with the School of Library and Information Science at the university of Western Ontario, a program in Ottawa offered degree courses to holders of the BLS. Discontinued in 1980.
1980	The Committee on Accreditation of the American Library Association approved the continued accreditation of the MLS program under its 1971 Standards for Accreditation.
1981	The Master of Arts in Teaching (MA(T) School Librarianship program was introduced. This program, offered jointly with the Faculty of Education, was designed for qualified practicing school librarians.
1982	The Faculty was renamed the Faculty of Library and Information Science (FLIS).
1988	The Faculty introduced a two academic-year program leading to the degree of Master of Information Science (MIS) to complement the MLS program.
1988	The MA (T) school librarianship program, introduced in 1981, was suspended.
1994	The Faculty was renamed the Faculty of Information Studies (FIS).
1994	The McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology, designed to encourage understanding of the impact of technology on culture and society from theoretical and practical perspectives, joined FIS as a distinct research and teaching unit. The Program offers graduate courses but does not award a degree.
1995	The Master of Library Science degree program, begun in 1970, and the Master of Information Science degree program, begun in 1988, were replaced by the Master of Information Studies (MIS) program with three areas of specialization: Archival Studies, Information Systems, and Library and Information Science.
1996	The program leading to the MIS degree was accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of the American Library Association under its 1992 Standards for Accreditation.
2002	The Diploma of Advanced Study in Information Studies was introduced, a post-Master's diploma for practitioners who wish to advance their professional standing, to develop a specialization, or to redirect their career. The entrance requirement for the Diploma is a master's degree in the field of information studies and course requirements are successful completion of twenty-four credit hours (i.e., eight half-courses). The first graduate was Sylvia Lassam.
2003	The Committee on Accreditation of the American Library Association approved the continued accreditation of the program leading to the degree of Master of Information Studies (MIS) under its 1992 Standards for Accreditation.
2003	The introduction of a four-year joint degree program in Information Studies and Law (MIS/JD) is approved.
2004	"Stepping Up: Information Practice in the 21st Century: 2004-2010 Academic Plan for the Faculty of Information Studies, a Professional and Research Faculty of the University of Toronto" is published.

Directors

1928-1951	Winifred G. Barnstead, B.A., LLD
1951-1964	Bertha Bassam, B.A., B.L.S., M.S., LLD
1964-1972	R. Brian Land, BA, MA, BLS, MLS

Deans

1972	R. Brian Land, BA, MA, BLS, MLS
1972-1978	Francess G. Halpenny, CC, BA, MA, LLD, DLitt, FRSC
1979-1984	Katherine H. Packer, BA, AMLS, PhD
1984-1990	Ann H. Schabas, BA, AM, BLS, MA, PhD
1990-1995	Adele M. Fasick, BA, MA, MSLS, PhD
1995-2003	Lynne Howarth, BA, MLS, PhD
2003-	Brian Cantwell Smith, BSc, MSc, PhD

Quarters

1928-1965	Ontario College of Education, 371 Bloor Street West, part of 3rd floor.
1965-1971	165 College St. (two floors and basement) and 256 McCaul Street (2 floors).
1971-	Claude T. Bissell Building, 140 St. George Street, 7 floors and basement (2 floors now shared)

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